



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/606,117	06/24/2003	Alan Y. Chow	3614/172	3694
23418 7590 01/16/2007 VEDDER PRICE KAUFMAN & KAMMHOLZ 222 N. LASALLE STREET CHICAGO, IL 60601			EXAMINER	
			OROPEZA, FRANCES P	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3766	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		01/16/2007	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/606,117	CHOW, ALAN Y.
	Examiner Frances P. Oropeza	Art Unit 3766

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10/26/06 (Response).
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-39 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 11-22 and 27-39 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-10 and 23-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 26 October 2006 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3/10/04</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/ Restriction

1. Claims 11-22 and 27-39 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. The Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in the reply filed on 10/26/06.

The Applicant asserts in the arguments of 10/26/06 that the restriction is improper because it is not burdensome for the Examiner to examine two patentably distinct species of the claimed invention: 1) a device/ method comprising one electrode placed on the surface structure of the eyeball, and at least one return electrode being placed substantially distant from the eyeball, and 2) a device/ method comprising one electrode placed on the surface structure of the eyeball, and at least one return electrode placed on a second surface of the eyeball. The Examiner disagrees. While the two species may be closely related, the placement of the return electrode is different requiring a burden for the Examiner to find different limitations for the different species, hence the restriction is deemed appropriate.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. Claims 1-10 and 23-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Parel et al. (US 6154671). Parel et al. teach a device/ method for treating all eye tissue, read to be the external and internal surfaces of the eyeball and conductive biological tissue, associated with degenerative retinal disease by chronically applying at least one or multiple stimulating electrode to an external surface structure of an eyeball, applying at least one return electrode placed

substantially distant from the eyeball, on the eyelid, and applying electrical stimulation to the eyeball via the stimulating electrode and the return electrode. A battery signal source is taught, and it is accepted an induction coil or an extra-ocular signal could be the source of the electrical stimulation signal (abstract; col. 2 @ 9-31, 45-47).

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The information disclosure statement filed 3/10/04 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3) because it does not include a concise explanation of the relevance, as it is presently understood by the individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c) most knowledgeable about the content of the information, of each patent, publication or other information listed that is not in the English language. Reference A224 by Miyoshi is not in the English language. The information disclosure statement has been initialed for all references accept A224 by Miyoshi; reference A224 by Miyoshi has been lined through. The information referred to in the reference A224 by Miyoshi has not been considered.

Statutory Basis

4. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fran Oropeza whose telephone number is (571) 272-4953. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert E. Pezzuto can be reached on (571) 272-6996. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300 for regular communication and for After Final communications.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Frances P. Oropeza
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3766

JPO
11/4/07


Robert E. Pezzuto
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3766